

Informant:	LMP-S1	Spanish
Date:	12-23-00	Mini DV
Interviewers:	C. Hernandez, M. Jones, P. Polk	
Transcriber:	?	

Side A

(Note: Prayer being spoken in what seems to be a Nahuatl language with some Spanish phrases)

MJ: So what's next on the list?

CH: We have diabetes next on the list. But if you want to go into the blood thing, we have bleeding on here and we have other stuff.

MJ: What kind of bleeding? Where are we? What number are we on?

CH: Number twenty-three says bleeding.

MJ: Well, that can be from a cut wound, menstrual, or if it doesn't stop. Why don't you ask him first from a cut wound...how to stop the bleeding and then menstrual bleeding that doesn't stop?

CH: We want to know if you have treated severe bleeding problems? For example, if I cut myself and it's a cut that doesn't stop bleeding.

S1: Yes, but not that severe. For example, I have helped patients who have cut a vein but nothing too serious.

CH: Yes, that type of thing nothing severe.

S1: Yes, this person came and maybe they were drunk and they cut themselves here...and cut a vein open...

CH: And you can treat such a thing like that?

S1: Yes.

CH: How do you stop the bleeding?

S1: First I burn a newspaper and get it like this with sugar and coffee and place it here. (Then I mix them with coffee and sugar and apply this to the wound but very quickly.) If there is lots of blood then you put about a pound of sugar on it, or wherever.

CH: With what frequency do you treat these sorts of problems?

S1: Here, it's not that often but if it's an emergency I'll do it.

CH: Have you done it recently for another person?

S1: Yes, in Guatemala. Not here. Here only when I fell and cut myself.

CH: Did you cure yourself?

S1: Yes, I went to the doctor...

CH: you had to apply the coffee and all that?

S1: I put...the wound was bleeding a lot. I don't like the hospital and my son said that we needed to go to the hospital right away because it was dangerous, but I had already stopped it.

CH: yes with the coffee and the ashes

S1: I became so nervous because it was just gushing out, so I quickly got a towel and wrapped it on my wound. I quickly let cold water run on the wound and I put a lot of alcohol, fluoridated water, sugar and coffee. When I got to the hospital, the wound was not bleeding anymore. If you want the bleeding to stop quickly, you get '' (crema de tepescuite) and the (babasa) but they call it 'Mexican squash (wiskil) in Mexico...so the (babasa) of the (wiskil) and the (babasa) of the cucumber (pepino) as well, you take the cucumber (pepino) and you cut the ends off and you rub it like this so that the milky stuff come out and you put it on like this, that takes away scars, if I want to get rid of my scar...this was really big but since I used aloe (savila), Mexican squash (wiskil) and cucumber (pepino) it has gone down...

CH: How long ago?

S1: One year and half ago

CH: He said that if you have a lot of blood what you use is, you take the newspaper and you take the ashes of a newspaper, sugar, coffee and mix it all up and put it on the wound right away, he said one person came and had like a cut on his hand, I guess he had been drunk or something so he...

S1: She thought we were going to call the firefighters because it was really big

CH: He stopped the bleeding and he has a wound on his arm right here...show it to them...

S1: I can't show it...they'll ask why...

CH: He doesn't want to show you why...he got an accidental cut and he applied all of the above...at first he wrapped it with towels then he put alcohol then sugar then the coffee...he said he does not treat it often...

S1: If you want that it go away, like when someone scratches their face, well, when it's a bit fresh you take the (babasa) of the cucumber (pepino), aloe (savila) and you put it on.

CH: He says for scars you put on the sticky stuff in the aloe, you know how aloe is, or cucumber, you cut the ends and you use that

S1: You have to rub the ends a lot, the Mexican squash (wiskil) too

CH: right, the Mexican squash you cut it and you take the sticky liquid and stuff...the gooey stuff and you rub it on the affected area

S1: It gets rid of cuts and stains/bruises

CH: How long ago did you treat that woman?

S1: About four days ago...there was a lot of blood, she cut herself here, on the corner of this and the vein cut open because she was bleeding a lot

CH: But you don't see many people with this type of problem?

S1: No, because it's very delicate here...

CH: He says he saw that woman...

S1: Over there yes, not here...

CH: In Guatemala he treats that more...

S1: I can treat dislocations (safadura), broken limbs (quebradura), sprains (torcedura)

CH: What's a dislocation (safadura)

S1: when it becomes dislocated, when you fall and your arm comes out...or the fingers or from the shoe, sometimes women wear really high shoes and they twist the skin or the ankle, I can also help that...I do that here but not with many people because I don't want any problems

CH: How do you treat that kind of problem?

S1: I massage (sobar) them and I pull the fingers. This here has to be...(inaudible)

CH: He says he puts it back in place with massage, like massaging...it's not massaging but...

S1: It's not massaging but something really hard, there are some people that scream a lot, there are people that have come in with their feet like this but they bite down on a towel or rag and...

CH: He says people have come in with really swollen limbs and they had to bite a towel and stuff...when was the last time you treated something like this?

S1: About a month and a half ago, it's always people like, Mexican, Guatemalans, Salvadorians that have some bruise...or sometime they mess up their hips...

CH: How many people do you see each month?

S1: Oh, for that, very few. Only about three or four every year. If I was publicized, more people would come. But people hear about me by word of mouth.

P: How much has does being in the US changed what he practices from Guatemala?

CH: How much has your practice changed being here in the US, that when you were in Guatemala?

S1: My practice hasn't changed a bit because I am what I am, and I'm that all the time. I'm not like a lawyer or a doctor who (goes on climbing)/gets better as time goes on. I know things because my spirits tell me. I don't learn from books or anything because I don't even know how to read.

CH: Yes, but it's like for example...like here there are things you cant practice...

S1: Oh, here, I cant practice lots of things, the majority of the things I can't do here, this thing with the candles is because I have a license to put them, otherwise they don't allow it, nowhere, and I have tried to find out how to get a license because they don't allow it and another thing they don't let you do is smoke, almost nothing...

CH: These are the changes that one makes...

S1: If they allowed the amplitude that they do in Guatemala, this would be a stupendous thing.

CH: He says if we had the plentitude, here, to do what they do in Guatemala it would be a completely different thing, it would be stupendous.

S1: Over there, you do what you want wherever you want and there is no problem.

CH: He says...

S1: ...here nothing belongs to you.

CH: He says, here nothing belongs to you and you cant do burnings (quemadas), you have to have license for everything, you can only have candles because he has the license and it was a difficult process for him, but you have to have license for stuff and that's why, those are the difficulties he has practicing here versus Guatemala, over there it's less lenient (note: she means they are more lenient in Guatemala)

Patrick: Other types of bleeding...

Jones: Internal or menstrual...

CH: when you do the treatments for twists and all that do you some sort of special medicinal herbs?

S1: Sometimes and sometimes not, Sometimes I just use this so it runs...Roble (phonetic spelling) oil (aceite roble) and if not that one sometimes olive oil (aceite de olivo), rayan (phonetic spelling) oil (aceite rayan).

CH: I just asked him what he uses for the massage type of stuff...and when women do not stop the menstrual bleeding? (Note: Original Transcription: "What do you do when women have excessive bleeding when they're on their period?") Do you treat that? Do you give them some sort of recommendation?

S1: Yes, I give them...there are women that have their period two or three times in a month, or sometimes they are pregnant and they are on their period and so, they say that it comes one day or two days and sometimes a little bit and sometimes nothing or sometimes they have a lot of pain, like in the vagina, or...I don't know where, but I give them, I told you last time, I give them "Chatia" (phonetic spelling), you put it to boil...

CH: What is the "Chatia"

S1: it's a flower. You put it to boil...

CH: that's for bleeding and pain?

S1: That's for when someone has like cancer in the womb, like when you have blood in the womb, it is like a fountain ruptures inside and it is released and they die...there are women, for example, lets say you have a kid today and maybe they are not careful with their husband of having relations, so they damage themselves, they stay fat (big bellied) with lots of pain in the womb area and so with the "chatia" you can take it away and with tightening it with a belt like I have. Sometimes they get a fallen stomach (estomago caído)

CH: And so the "chatia" is for all those women's problems?

S1: Yes, and they call it "impaciente" here (impatient) and I can also massage (sobar) when women have fallen stomachs (estomago caído)

CH: to lift it?

S1: yes, or sometimes the womb is cold

CH: But for blood, to stop, for when the woman is bleeding porously and it does not stop, menstrual blood, do you also use the 'chatia'?

S1: That's what it's for

CH: So he uses a little flower called 'chatia', how many times a day do you take it?

S1: Like water, but you take it away

CH: What?

S1: Like water

CH: you have to take it like you drink water, you have to drink the tea, like you drink water, and it's called 'chatia' and he says he uses that for menstrual cramps, if somebody has a type of cancer in the uterus and could kill the woman, he uses that, also if their stomach has dropped after child's birth or if their womb has dropped he can do a type of massage to repair it and make it come back up

Jones: Does he steep the tea and how often does he do it

CH: For how much time do you boil the tea?

S1: About fifteen minutes and since it's an only a small fabric it will disintegrate, you only strain it you don't take anything else.

CH: 15 minutes and you don't ingest the leaves...

S1: If the woman has a lot of cold in the stomach then you boil rosemary (romero) and you have them drink it, or you do baths with it so that it warm the womb

CH: You can also do a tea with rue (ruda) and you can make hot baths for the woman...how long do they have to bathe with the romero (rosemary)?

S1: About five days and twice each day

CH: When was the last time you treated a person or recommended to a person to take this?

S1: I really don't do it here, in Guatemala, yes.

CH: you haven't recommended it to anyone?

S1: Not here

CH: He hasn't recommended it to anyone here...

Jones: Have they not asked...?

CH: Has anyone asked?

S1: Yes, but I don't do it...like with kids, I don't treat children here either only when I cleanse them with candles (velas) or eggs (huevos) or rue (ruda) if they are scared or they have the 'eye' (ojo) and there nothing.

CH: He mainly treats children for bad eye (mal ojo) but he doesn't do anything else for kids, I can treat them but not here, here they put you in jail, you are not doing anything bad and they try to get you...I don't want any of that...

CH: How many people have asked for remedies for those problems of women?

S1: Here, about a hundred

CH: In a year?

S1: In year but I do not treat them all because I cant ...(inaudible)...

Jones: A hundred a year have asked for what?

CH: For remedies for problems for menstrual cramps and bleeding or you know, with women problems like with fallen matrix. He says he doesn't treat them because women have that problem a lot...Latin women?

S1: Latin women, I don't treat white women...whites and Asians, No. Or Arabs, they come here but I don't treat them because they are problematic

Patrick: Does he suggest to them were they go for treatment?

CH: Do you recommend them to go somewhere else?

S1: I tell them to go to the hospital

CH: He tells them to go to the hospital

S1: One time I lit a candle (vela), one of those, like a Chinese woman, Oh, they are a lot of problems...for a candle and that's not a problem

Patrick: Does he regret that he has to do that, has it lessened his practiced?

CH: Does it bother you not to be able to practice the way you want?

S1: Yes, a lot because you cannot practice what you know...if the government allowed here...or choose those who knew, but no.

CH: He says he really ...(inaudible)...he cant...

S1: There are people, South Americans, Arabs and those that have a lot of money they need someone like me, but Latinos, those that are poor like from Belize, Jamaica, and Filipinos come with me.

CH: He says he treats Filipinos...

S1: many Filipinos with problems.

CH: What's the percentage of Filipinos?

S1: Not many come but there are a few.

CH: He says he doesn't get many Filipinos but he does treat them and he says that his practice is not necessarily needed for many people but mostly by poor people from Latin American countries like Belize and Jamaica and then he said the Filipinos and he said that the poor people could use what he does

S1: The majority of people already know what the things are good for...also the real black people, the original ones...

CH: Africans?

S1: A few but they come

CH: From Africa?

S1: Straight from...they are good people

CH: and African-Americans?

S1: No, I don't want them, they come here to see what they can steal,

CH: he says they come and steal

Patrick: When he says steal what does he mean? Does he mean steal traditions?

CH: What do they try to steal, things in the store? Or traditions?

S1: Money or to hit people

CH: They try to steal money or hit people

S1: I don't give them any, they are bad

CH: He says he does not trust them, he thinks they are bad

Jones: How do Asians give him trouble?

CH: And Asians...

S1: I deal with blacks from Central America, not from here, sometimes from New York, they are good...

CH: he only deal with Latino Blacks...

S1: But there are different, there are some, I don't like...I don't discriminate against anyone but those people (African-Americans) don't lend themselves to trust.

CH: he says he does not discriminate but he just doesn't trust them, they don't allow themselves to be trusted

Patrick: Different cultures...

S1: Yes, there are blacks that are very educated and hard workers and there are some that are bad.

CH: He says there are some that are great workers and others that are not

Jones: So what problems do Asians give?

CH: And Asians?

S1: they are very bad, they treat people poorly, like Cubans and Peruvians they treat people really bad and they have a way of speaking which is very hurtful.

CH: He says he doesn't deal with Cubans or Peruvians either; there vocabulary is very rough

S1: To avoid problems...they like want to keep you on the ground

CH: They try to dominate a person, he's talking about Asians, Cubans and Peruvians, they try to put you down

S1: Many problems with them

Patrick: the santeros?

S1: They call me, because they study books and I don't study books, they get books from Karen Lara, Karen Lara is a woman that makes books of what you guys are doing, so she goes here and there and everywhere, they leave 50 dollars or more and she gets lots of recipes to sell, she's not...anything

CH: He says they read books by Karen Lara...

S1: She's come here with me...

CH: She interviewed you?

S1: No, one of her assistants, but I didn't want to give her much, because I know she makes money, it's a business she has, the only ones I given trust to is them, that they are going to make a movie or whatever...

CH: He says he only trusts us

S1: Many come, but no.

Jones: Heart problems are next, but I don't know how you want to talk about that with him, because it could be Heart attack, high blood pressure, heart disease, all kinds...

CH: Well I'll ask about all...have you ever worked with people who had heart attacks (ataques de corazon)?

S1: Many, but I don't tend to them

CH: Has anyone come in...

S1: Many, I can help them but here I don't get into it, here it's too much of a problem, sometimes they are taking medicine the doctor gave them and if I give them anything here...I don't give medicine...

CH: Natural remedies...

S1: Natural remedies, yes, and...maybe the person is about to die and they say, I went to so-and-so, no, I don't get involved with the heart or with children, nor with injections

CH: He doesn't deal with heart attacks, kids or injections, because heart attacks are big problems, doctors give certain medications, what he gives is natural, but he does not want to have any conflicting problems with whatever medication they might be taking, he says people come but he doesn't want to deal with it...More men than women come in?

S1: Mixed, both.

CH: About how many people a year?

S1: 50, because it's not of interest to me but I do get some for high blood pressure (presion) and heart, many have died from the heart, I have heard, because it's all of a sudden

CH: He says people have died from it because they just kind of up and die...Do you want to ask about diabetes?

S1: What most people come to see me about is when they're dealing with stress (estres) or headaches (dolor de cabeza), pain in the legs (dolor de canillas), pain in the waist (dolor de la cintura), some stomach pain (dolor de estomago), impotence (impotencia), vaginal infections (infecciones vaginales).

CH: You treat the vaginal infections?

S1: I tell them to go the doctor, I can but I can't do that here...

Patrick: He basically treats problems that the hospitals and the doctors don't treat or can't treat...

CH: you basically treat the problems that doctors cant treat, like for example for sprains and that type of thing?

S1: I can do like the doctors but I don't have the opportunity, doctors take the risk of cutting here, they have studied, and they know if the person dies they don't have to bear it and I do because they'll take me to jail...they work at ease because they have a license and they make the people sign a paper and so I can work here like a doctor but I cant do it here...

CH: He says he doesn't have the same opportunity as doctors do so he doesn't...he can treat all the things that doctors treat but he doesn't because he cant...he doesn't have a license like they do and also they have disclaimers, they have us sign papers before we go in and if we die, we die, but him on the other hand he would accountable for everything, so he doesn't work like doctors do...I guess most of the illnesses that he was trying to tell me earlier that he gets people for is pains, headaches, vaginal problems, stuff like that, but he doesn't treat it all, people come for those things but he doesn't treat all those things...

S1: I can be like, in Cuba, over where people are killing each other in the mountains, I can be like an emergency doctor, because I can do many things and take away pain but who is going to give me that license, they don't give it out...I can a doctor but in the mountain, where people truly believe that they will be cured...

CH: He says he could treat people in the way infirmaries treat people, like during war, like emergency type thing, he could be there to treat people right away...

S1: I can sew...if someone asks me to do it I do it, but if they give me permission, otherwise you can't do it here.

CH: If a person says, do it, like giving him permission then he'll do it, otherwise he wont do it because he doesn't want to deal with problems.

Patrick: So what of he ends up treating a lot are the problems that it's not likely to be checking on, or somebody to get in trouble?

CH: Yeah, let me ask him again...so the problems that you mostly treat are problems...

S1: Simple ones...

CH: ...simple...that you have to have problems if someone where to come and question what you are doing?

S1: Yes because it's a spiritual thing what I do

CH: Then what would be the things that you most treat?

S1: Cold (gripe), cough (tos), body aches (dolor de cuerpo), arthritis (arthritis), headaches (dolor de cabeza), or love problems (problemas de amor), I do some other things... There are people, from our countries who believe they do not have good luck in life or cannot have children, so I give them something or they cant have relations or people who get affected by witchcraft, or they are tied by witchcraft so they cant do

anything, wherever they go they get dirty looks. People come here, where people look at you and you don't even know that you stink, I can take that away, sometimes they smell like dead people and they don't know, that's witchcraft, they treat them bad, they tell them to go home and they don't find a job...there is a business and if there is no clientele we believe that something is happening or you have to do something...

CH: He says as far as the medical end of it he says mostly does treat whatever he cant get in trouble for, that would be arthritis, colds, coughs, stress, those types of things and spiritual problems of he could only describe a few, others he doesn't talk about, you know like love problems, like if you feel you have (been salted) [note: to be salty, is generally used to mean 'to have bad luck', where you are unlucky] bad luck, then he treats that, then businesses if they need to call clients, if they have bad luck because someone has put a curse on them, he treats that type of thing...

Patrick: Did he say, "salted"?

CH: Yeah,

Patrick: Explain that a little more.

CH: Well...when someone is 'salted' how do they get that way, at home?

Patrick: To 'salt' a person you take a container...you can do it with this too, you get three eggs and the name of the person or nine eggs, you put them in the form of the person's name, chicken eggs, and you put down what you want to go wrong, and you take it and you color it black...

CH: The eggs?

Patrick: ...Yes, and you go break them in front of the house of the owner...your enemy and there is another thing where you throw ...(inaudible)...black salt (sal negra), pulverized eggshell, lion excrement and snake squares [note: original transcription 'snake scales'] (cuadritos de culebra), and (pimienta guinea) you sometimes put on that cementary dirt (tierra del panteon) and that they go and throw...but bad people do this, I don't do this because I'm a 'white center' (centro blanco) but they do it

CH: he says the bad people those who practice black magic, they do this, he says what they do is take eggs, 3 or 9 eggs and you paint them black and then on a piece of paper you write down all the bad things you want to happen to this person and you take the eggs and you throw them at the persons house at midnight, or another thing you can do is take chicken excrement, he said lion...Where do you find lion excrement?

S1: People get it, I don't know how. Buzzard feathers (plumas de zopilote), you know the ones that fly around and eat dead...

CH: Right, you know, Vultures, feathers of vultures, baby chickens when they are born and hatched the...the shell that is left over from the hatchlings, you take that and you throw it, all those things that's how you 'salt' or black salts...

S1: Turn it off....

TAPE CUTS OFF

S1: Just remove it from the tape...

CH: When you said turn it off we turned it off!

S1: OK,

CH: Diabetes (Diabetes)?

S1: No

CH: But you know how?

S1: Not really, I don't get into that.

CH: Parasites (parasitos)?

S1: Yes,

CH: What type of remedy?

S1: When there is a tapeworm (lombriz) that they call "escarutillo", they say it goes all like this, it's not like a worm on the loose, it's you know those people that are very skinny, for that you ...(inaudible)...three garlis (ajo) and you put (apazote), the kind you eat, lots of that and you put three garlis and a purple onion (cebolla morada), you liquefy it, you have to be careful because it's very strong, sometimes you just put it a little bit...

CH: By way of the mouth or...

S1: Sometimes from below

CH: I've heard that some people even choke on this...

S1: It goes to your eyes...when the children have tapeworms (lombrizes), you try to get rid of them quickly before it begins to rain, when it rains, it has to be two or one month before it rains, because if you do it when it is raining it wont come out and they have lots of offspring, so the child gets really fat and it eats like their intestines...they say that, well, let's say I had a small child and he started with stomach pains and vomiting and his eyes are shiny are all signs he has a parasite and so, since there are many types of parasites, they say that the worm goes like this, it goes in through the blood or something and it goes in through here and it leaves people blind...there are people where they come out through here

CH: How do you get them out?

S1: With the (apazote)

CH: And if it rains and you haven't removed it?

S1: Then you cant because the children get bloated, they get big

CH: Is there any remedy for that?

S1: Just a relaxant, like let's say I have kid of about 5 or 6 years of age with lost of pain in the stomach and has worms, if you here it when you tap the stomach, you hear something and so that's where they are and so you have to bathe them in alcohol and have him do the camphor oil (aceite de alcanfor), and put some of it here...

CH: On the nose?

S1: Yes, or put a small branch of apazote or by the ear, because they don't like the smell of it, they come out from the ears, they curl up with the smell and you can get it...there are some people over there that if you are in the mountain they take some apazote and they chew on it and put some on the bellybutton so that they don't die, they call it a worm attack and they die immediately

CH: Have people come here with worm problems?

S1: I don't treat that here

CH: But have people come in?

S1: Yes, but I don't treat it

CH: What percentage of people would you say?

S1: Many. They come from everywhere, Oaxaca, Guatemala, from El Salvador, people who were like raised over there and those people, the people here too

CH: They bring kids or men or women?

S1: Older men and women

CH: About how many people a month or a year come and ask for...?

S1: It's very little because I don't have...since I'm not a doctor, they sometimes look for a doctor

Patrick: Are there different types of parasites?

CH: Yes, he says there are, he says there some that go in the blood and there are some that stay in the stomach, the ones that go in the blood end up coming out through your eye and they make you blind or they come out your nose...

S1: They go up to your head and the person dies

CH: They go up to your head and the person dies.

Patrick: He doesn't treat them?

CH: no

S1: I say that its hard here because they don't know when the attack happens, they don't know when a kid has (empacho), evil eye (mal de ojo), or when a kid has a headache (dolor de cabeza)...that's why there are kids that die, they die of some sickness but it's not that...

CH: But of something simple?

S1: Something that is easy that maybe someone else could cure

CH: He says sometimes kids die and doctors say, 'we don't know' it's not clear what he died of....

S1: Because in other medicines they know big things, I believe that all medicine has some type of drugs and of that stuff they do know but they don't know about shrubs

CH: HE says doctors know a lot about drugs and medicines but they don't know about herbs, plants...

S1: They know about injections, I.V.'s but they don't know that plants heal also

CH: He says they know about IV injections and everything but they don't know about herbs or plants, they don't know that could be useful too and he says that few people come here for that because he know he wont treat that but that men, women and children from like Oaxaca, El Salvador and Central American places, the come, and he said that the problem here is that they kids will go to the doctors, or the people will take their kids in, the doctor wont know that it's just 'indigestion' (emapacho) or 'fright' [note: literal translation](susto) or like simple things that other people like him could cure

Patrick: He told us a story about a guy with worms, he had a bunch of worms, was that here or was that...he treated somebody...

CH: You told us about a man who had like worms...oh yeah that man that had...

S1: the worms came out his bellybutton...

CH: Where they tapeworms (lombrizes)?

S1: No, they were worms, just like those ones that are born in meat, I don't know if you know them

CH: I think they were maggots, he said they were like the kind that come out of meat....

S1: Like the worm that you see in the Mexican liquor, they looked like rice

CH: He said like the one in the tequila, it looked like rice...so that man you met here or in Guatemala?

S1: Here because his mother came his sister, his brothers, you know because they travel in groups...you ask for permission and if they all say yes then you do it...

CH: he says that if the entire family says yes then he treats him

S1: and if you are going to cure him then the entire family should be there

CH: But you did not know he had worms?

S1: No

CH: just when you started to cure him?

S1: Yeah he was like he was going to die...he was skinny from here like a skeleton...

CH: The man was ready to die, he was really skinny and his gut was just out and he looked like skeleton and from his bellybutton came all the worms...

S1: Like when someone dies the stomach becomes a bit bloated

CH: He says once we die we have flat bellies again...so when we die it deflates?

S1: It stretches out...

CH: How long ago did you cure that man?

S1: About six months ago.

Jones: We did not ask him earlier about...

S1: I also cured a woman who had a sickness in her head but it's because they are working people and they don't eat well and also, she bathed and didn't dry her hair and (jaqueca [phonetic spelling]) fell on her...

CH: (jaqueca)? Sinus inflammation?

S1: Yes, when people have lots of headaches, it pulsates, so she had that and I cured it.

CH: He treated someone for sinusitis or called (jaqueca) and they had pulsating headaches...

S1: Her head would heat up and it burned her...

CH: her head used to feel really hot and it would kind of sting a little

CH: How did you cure her?

S1: With those baths I do.

CH: Did you recommend she come here or did you...

S1: I don't cure here, at home...

CH: What type of bath?

S1: They contain salt (sal), fluoridated water (agua florida), alcohol (alcohol), bellflower (flor de la campana). But you hit here like this and then you squeeze here and you blow here

CH: And so you tell the person to go home and do this?

S1: No, I do it her in the moment, I also have had people brought in because they cant walk.

CH: He says there have been people that cant stand to even walk they have to be carried...what he did with that lady is like hit those pressure points like right here and back here then he recommends certain salt baths with cologne and alcohol and he tells them to bathe accordingly

Jones: How frequently for how long?

CH: How long did the lady have to bathe for?

S1: For about nine days. I don't know about people's faith, but I cure many things

CH: he says he doesn't know if it's people's faith but he cures a lot...how many times a day?

S1: Once, only at night and with very hot water and stay in for ½ an hour or the most that you can and you pray a lot so that it go away

CH: the water has to be really hot and the person has to pray to god and pray a lot and ask god for help

Patrick: what does he think are the things in Los Angeles that make people sick?

CH: What are the things in Los Angeles that cause the sicknesses in the majority of the people? What do you think affects people more?

S1: here, people get sick from too much pressure (presion) because there is not enough money for rent and you have to work even if sick another things is that bosses treat employees really bad another thing with the smoke here...

CH: The smog...

S1: If you go downtown you come back with a black nose and that goes inside and another thing is that the food from here makes you sick, they say it's good but they grow everything with hormones, the fruits...there are no fruits today and tomorrow there are, here everything is quick and fast it's like some liquid they throw on it so that it get really big but it's no good, but in Guatemala and in El Salvador it takes some effort for them to bloom but they are original [note: meaning not enhanced chemically] Like the chicken here, they put lots of injections in it so that it can grow, the ...(inaudible)...also they say that gives you cholesterol and what not and here life is very forced, that's why people get sick and another thing they get witchcraft gets done on them because people are really jealous, in this country you get lots of envy and problems, depression affects them a lot, some people go crazy and they want to kill themselves, because they lost their home or their car

CH: He says he treats a lot of things to do with stress and pressure or envy, like jealousy...

S1: There is a lot of that here, too much, in large quantities...

P: Why envy?

HC: Envy, that's just how we Latinos are...because they see that...over there we are all the same, but here if she has Mercedes I want a Corvette and if I have that then she wants something bigger and so if she got a house they begin to ask questions and they ask if you sell things of yours, you have things because you fight for them but people don't understand that they always want to see you (ruined) on the street.

C: He says it's like a competitive thing people figure, she's got a Mercedes I'll get a Corvette, like competition, like if someone gets a house they ask why they got a house and maybe they don't realized they worked really hard for it they just want to keep you down, so there is a lot of envy (envidia) among our own people, he says that there is one interesting thing that causes the pressure and the stress are like the smog, you breathe the air and you go home and you blow your nose and it's black, and it goes up into your head, he says the smog...and people are stressed out about paying rent and not have money for it, being treated bad by their bosses, not being treated fairly and the then the hormones in the food, the food is bad here, it might taste good but it's bad he says...

HC: I can tell you that because I worked on the field. In the fields the airplanes fly by throwing this 'medicine' it's a bunch of really strong liquids. The fields are fumigated by many liquids.

CH: How long did you work in the fields?

S1: Three years. I worked there because I had no papers, so I went there. The grapes they make grow by force, not because it grows naturally, asparagus, or tomatoes, (anyone) are grown forcefully. It's something fast, they have to produce it fast, it's not natural. Here they chose the biggest fruit and they leave the smallest one...

C: He says everything here is forced, everything is speedy everything is fast paced, like the tree might not have any fruit but then it will get injected or like be give hormones and

then tomorrow you will have fruit, he says everything is speedy, like...since he worked on the fields for three years cultivating stuff and he said everything was just hormone filled....

HC: There was a machine going this way and many others going different ways, in all the fields, the strawberry is fumigated, very much so.

P: Does it cause a lot of maladies for the workers? The workers get sick a lot because of that?

C: That cause that workers get sick?

S1: Oh yes, those that work in the field are more dead than anything alive, their messed up from the lungs, legs, their eyes get messed up, the plane passes by and it's like a bomb that covers you completely and that....

C: Does that get done during the day?

HC: Yes, all the time, or a helicopter or they have the bomb machines...

C: He says they are constantly getting sprayed on, those people are more people are more dead than...

HC: People just don't know how the fields are...

C: they just keep on working, he says the planes are constantly bombing and the tractor things...

HC: There are many sicknesses here but because it's all fumigated. There's people who don't even wash the food.

C: he says there are people that don't wash their fruit and vegetables but either way it's all contaminated from the inside.

P: Change.....

Side B

S1: Here, witchcraft is very popular. People envy a lot of people.

CH: There's a lot of envy even within Latinos themselves.

S1: Yes, Black people are worse

C: Latin Blacks?

HC: Latinos and blacks from here are into, Blacks from here they are into witchcraft also the Russians are also just as bad. A lot of Russians come to see me. A woman comes to see me. She is beautiful, her face is gorgeous, but she is very evil.

P: Why Russians?

HC: I don't know, they are...

C: For business?

HC: Yes, they kill each other, they don't like the sister the brother...

C: They hate each other, they kill each other

HC: ..That's how it is. They are very problematic.

C: He says even African-Americans are big time into envy...

HC: Yes, they are envious and I tell you because I ask her, you are beautiful you maybe want money, she says no she wants to kill her mother in law, and father-in-law

C: The Russian lady?

HC: Yes

C: He says the Russian lady is really pretty but she wants to kill everyone in her family...should we continue with ailments?

P: Well it's been about an hour now.

HC: you can continue for ten more minutes...

P: I want to ask him about his story of coming here.

CH: he wants to know when you came here and how you got here to the US

S1: I came here in 1988.

P: Not right now another day, another day, he can tell us the whole story. Everything about working in the field. Why he came here, how he came here.

CH: He'd like to talk to you about that another day, ask, when you came here, where did you go first and all that, he wants to know the story of your progress...another day For now...let me see. We already covered the parasites. So, there are two types of parasites?

S1: No, there are three.

CH: One type is the one that goes into the blood.

S1: Yeah, they go into the veins.

CH: The other ones are the ones that go into the stomach.

HC: Yes, there are some that go inside the ears.

CH: But the ones that go in the ears are not the same as the one that go in the blood?

HC: There are some thin ones and some thick ones and some that are tube-like. They are like snails. They say that sometime a piece of it will come out but the rest stays inside and they all have heads and eyes. But that is when people are very thin and eat a lot.

C: He says you know when someone has parasites when they eat a lot and are really skinny...but they have a tiny little stomachs right?

HC: Yes but very small

P: Do you tell people how to not get parasites?

CH: Do you tell people how to not get parasites?

HC: I don't do that because I am not a doctor.

CH: He says since he's not a doctor he can't talk to people about that
Should we go on to the next one? OK, gas. How do you treat that?

S1: Well, when...

C: there are different types of gases...

HC: In Guatemala, there is a thing, women have a child their womb fills up with air and they get a very large belly. I give them a remedy that is called "tracadeaire" (air trap). It's a leaf. You put it to cook and the person drinks it. Because it takes out the air and Sometimes people get stomachaches.

CH: For how long do you cook it?

HC: So that the juice comes out fully from the leaf...that's so that the stomach go down and the woman go back to normal (This helps the air to leave the woman's womb.)

C: How many times did you say?

HC: About five or six times a day. You can also use spearmint (yerba Buena).

C: Can you do them together?

HC: Together or apart...It's for woman that had a child and now have air in their...another thing I use for gas problems is the juice from sour oranges (naranja agria).

C: What is that?

HC: It's like a lemon (limon), it's like an orange but mixed with something else that is both bitter and acidic. It's real bitter...the juice of that you drink for about four days.

C: you have to give it like a tea?

HC: you just squeeze it

CH: Have you treated people with gasses here?

HC: Oh, no I don't. Not here. I know how to treat it but not here in the US.

C: He knows how to treat them but he just doesn't...for gasses he recommends is, if it's a woman that just gave birth and she has gas in her womb then he would recommend she take a leaf called 'traca de aire', T-R-A-C-A D-E A-I-R-E it's a leaf that means, "stops the wind"

J: And is it fresh or used dry?

C: What you do is you take it, a few leafs and you steep it and you boil it for a couple of minutes till all the juice is out, until you notice that the juice is out and real concentrate and then you take that like five times a day and then another thing is if you have regular gas pains what you take is a real bitter orange, he says it's kind of a mix like an orange that has been hybrid with something else, like a lemon, and it's a bitter orange, you take that and you take the juice, just...just...the fresh juice and you take that like five times a day and that should cure the gas problem.

Patrick: Why does he have a ceramic frog out in the front.

C: Is there a symbolic reference that frog you have in the front?

HC: Yes, well I bought it because I liked it but the black people ask it for money have faith in it.

C: Black people from here or...?

HC: All of them, Every time they come they rub its stomach. We had to take down from there because they wanted to steal him, it was in the display case...

C: He says it's for luck, he says he bought it because he liked it...

HC: They are going to Las Vegas and they ask it to give them luck

C: HE says a lot of black people, Latino blacks, and African-American blacks...

HC: White people want to buy it from me.

C: White people want to buy it from him...but black people come and they rub his belly and ask for love...

HC: It's like a mascot for them.

Jones: Why does he have two aguacates (note: attempting to say aguacates) on either side?

C: Oh, and the avocados (aguacates) is there some significance?

HC: No, they were give to me

P: Are they offerings?

HC: No

C: He says somebody just gave it to him and that's where they placed them but there is no symbolic reference

HC: What else.

CH: I wanted to ask you something about the "nacimientos" (births) because over there in El Salvador they name them "el cipitio" "el justo juez" "la santisima muerte." Do you do something like that here?

HC: No, but in Guatemala this week I would do the festivities, I would do the dances of (moros), dances of the old (baile de viejito), custom dance (baile disfraces), posadas, with two old people dancing with masks. They dance with a turtle shell hitting it on the top...they travel far on foot, on the 24th, that day at 12 the virgin arrives to the same house we do but before she enters they dance for her and throw firecrackers, once inside they pray to her, the child has been born and then there are tamales and liquor and all sorts of things.

C: But in the (nacimientos) do you also place the "cipitillo" and the "justo juez"?

HC: We place them all

C: I was just asking him about that

Patrick: Who has "la santisima muerte" (Holy Death)?

HC: San Pascual.

CH: What's the significance of "la santisima muerte"?

HC: Many people use to do things. I don't do anything with it. I just have it because I like it.

C: He says he only has her because he likes her, but a lot of people use her to do things...is magic?

C: They do good things and bad things. I like her.

Patrick: For curing?

HC: Yes. Maybe you've heard that in Tijuana a man had people's heads and he got, the man had a lot of human heads and they must have detected him...This was like four or six months ago. The bags were dripping blood and he was caught. They use that to do evil. The Cubans do that.

P: 'Palo Mayombe'

HC: yes, they do that

P: Ok thank you sir.

C: San Pascual is the equivalent of "Santisima Muerte"

END TAPE